(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Schemes to Increase Vegetable Production

3562. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to devise schemes for increasing vegetable production in the country to encourage export.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps to educate farmers in that regard for better yield and foreign exchange earning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARANA RAO): (a) to (c) There is no specific scheme for increasing production of vegetables to encourage export. However, the Government has approved a scheme on integrated development of vegetables including root and tuber crops for increasing production and productivity of vegetable crops both for domestic and export markets. The scheme includes programme on seed production, productivity improvement, integrated insect, pest and disease management, transfer of technology including training and visits, demonstration of technology, mechanisation and on-farm post-harvest handling. Besides, National horticulture Board and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority are providing assistance for infrastructure development on post-harvest handling, storage, marketing and infrastructure facilities at airport to encourage the exports of horticulture.

Evergreen Revolution

3563. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister has while inaugurating Krishi Expo 2000 on 25th Jaunary, 2000 in New Delhi exhorted the farmers and scientists to convert the green revolution into an evergreen revolution;

(b) what are Government's plans and details to achieve the aforesaid objects within a time frame;

(c) whether ICAR would also be associated to make the project a success;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the number of uneconomic holdings is on the rise and what steps are being taken to transform uneconomic land holdings into economic holdings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) In his address to the Krishi • Expo and National Livestock and Poultry Show, 2000, held on 25th January 2000, the Agriculture Minister had referred to the major initiatives taken by the Government for development of agriculture and expressed the hope that the Exhibition would provide an excellent opportunity to choose appropriate technologies for maximising output and profit.

(b)A regionally-differentiated strategy, based on agro-climatic regional disparities, has been adopted in the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) to realize the full potential of growth in every region.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d)Does not arise.

(e) The number of small and marginal land holdings had increased to 78 percent of all the holdings in 1990-91 against 76 percent in 1985-86. Diversification of agriculture, more particularly the development of horticulture, has been given a major thrust in the Ninth Plan for improving productivity of land, generating employment, and improving the economic conditions of small and marginal farmers.

Premium Rates for Various Crops

3564. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States who have implemented new crops insurance scheme;